



**CENTER FOR THE STUDY OF LAW AND SOCIETY**  
BERKELEY LAW

## **CSLS SPEAKER SERIES**

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**Monday, March 29, 2021**

### **KARIN MARTIN**

Assistant Professor at the School of Public Policy & Governance,  
University of Washington

## **“On Place, Policy, and Pain: Key Dimensions of U.S. Monetary Sanction Punishment Regimes”**

How do the statutory and institutional structures governing the use of monetary sanctions (MS) influence an individual’s exposure to the criminal justice system? To address this question, we draw on a systematic analysis of statutes, interview data with debtors (n=510) and court professionals (n=435), as well as 1600 hours of ethnographic observation across eight states. We combine these data with publically available administrative data to identify key dimensions of MS punishment regimes and describe the variation therein. We find that eight quantifiable and experiential dimensions, falling into the categories of penal context, discretion, and debtor experience, usefully characterize regimes of MS. By providing the first comprehensive assessment of MS across multiple states, this paper illuminates a previously unexplored nexus of statute and practice pertaining to the country’s most ubiquitous criminal sanction.

**PLACE** Zoom – [Register here for the link to join.](#)  
**TIME** 12:45 – 2:00pm.  
**INFO** [csls.berkeley.edu](https://csls.berkeley.edu)  
**EMAIL** [csls@law.berkeley.edu](mailto:csls@law.berkeley.edu)

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